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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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NUISANCES.

THE SUPREME COURT OF KANSAS DECIDES THAT AN ORDINANCE WHICH PROHIBITS TIN CANS, MANURE, GARBAGE, OR RUBBISH IN A CITY IS UNREASONABLE AND NOT NECESSARY FOR THE PROTECTION OF HEALTH.

The city of Goodland, Kans., adopted an ordinance which made it unlawful for "any person or persons to deposit * * * in any street or alley in the city of Goodland, Kans., any tin cans, manure, garbage, * * *, or any rubbish whatever," and also made it unlawful to place such substances on any lot or to allow them to remain on a lot.

The Supreme Court of Kansas (Burch, J.) said: "The ordinance is not directed against depositing tin cans, manure, ashes, garbage, and refuse on private property under conditions which render them offensive to others or detrimental to public health. * * * No distinction is made between nocuous and innocuous, reasonable and unreasonable. * * * Ashes from the furnace or stove could not be deposited or kept even in a safe receptacle." It was pointed out in the opinion that, if the ordinance was complied with, it would be impossible to keep a horse or a cow in the city.

The court decided that the ordinance was void. The opinion is published in this issue of the Public Health Reports, page 2463.

MORBIDITY REPORTS OF TYPHOID FEVER.

IMPROVED NOTIFICATION OBTAINED IN NEW JERSEY.

[From "Public Health News" of August, 1916, published by the Department of Health of New Jersey.]

Physicians are required by law in New Jersey to report all cases of typhoid fever to the health authorities. That there has been marked improvement in the reporting of cases during the last four years is indicated by the following table:

Year.	Number of cases reported.	Number of deaths.	Per cent of fatality.	Cases reported per 100 deaths.
1912.....	1,573	322	20.47	488
1913.....	1,717	377	15.24	619
1914.....	1,487	223	14.99	666
1915.....	1,889	191	10.11	980

The table shows the fatality rate for 1915 to be less than half the rate for 1912. This difference is only apparent and not real; it is not due to a lessened virulence of the infective agent, but may be attributed to better reporting of cases. The real situation is more accurately indicated by the figures in the last column, which give the number of cases reported per 100 deaths. It will be noted that the number of cases reported in 1915 per 100 deaths was slightly more than double the number reported for 1912.

There is no check on the reporting of cases such as the necessity for obtaining burial permits provides for the reporting of deaths, and for that reason reporting is much more complete for deaths than for cases. It is likely, therefore, that the actual fatality rate is materially less than the 10 per cent rate indicated by the figures for 1915. Even at the indicated rate a typhoid-fever patient has a better chance of recovery than a newborn babe has of living a year in New Jersey.

POLIOMYELITIS (INFANTILE PARALYSIS).

PREVALENCE IN CITIES.

The following table gives the reported prevalence of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) during the present summer in cities in which five or more cases have been reported in any one week:

City.	Period covered.	Number of cases reported.
Atlantic City, N. J.	July 12 to Sept. 2.	19
Baltimore, Md.	July 2 to Sept. 2.	39
Bayonne, N. J.	June 25 to Sept. 5.	41
Birmingham, Ala.	July 2 to Aug. 26.	14
Boston, Mass.	do.	32
Bridgeport, Conn.	July 16 to Sept. 2.	27
Camden, N. J.	July 1 to Sept. 5.	49
Chicago, Ill.	June 18 to Sept. 2.	146
Cincinnati, Ohio.	July 9 to Sept. 2.	18
Cleveland, Ohio.	June 25 to Sept. 2.	22
Detroit, Mich.	July 9 to Sept. 2.	18
East Orange, N. J.	July 1 to Sept. 4.	40
Flint, Mich.	July 23 to Aug. 26.	19
Harrison, N. J.	July 1 to Aug. 31.	34
Haverhill, Mass.	July 2 to Sept. 2.	7
Jersey City, N. J.	do.	148
Kearny, N. J.	July 1 to Sept. 4.	32
Long Branch, N. J.	July 23 to Sept. 2.	14
Memphis, Tenn.	Aug. 6 to Sept. 2.	8
Minneapolis, Minn.	July 30 to Aug. 26.	42
Montclair, N. J.	July 1 to Sept. 4.	18
Newark, N. J.	June 18 to Sept. 4.	1,072
New York, N. Y.	June 4 to Sept. 7.	8,399
North Adams, Mass.	July 16 to Sept. 2.	12
Northampton, Mass.	July 30 to Sept. 2.	9
Orange, N. J.	July 1 to Sept. 4.	78
Perth Amboy, N. J.	July 2 to Sept. 2.	25
Philadelphia, Pa.	June 25 to Sept. 2.	503
Pittsburgh, Pa.	July 2 to Sept. 2.	21
Pittsfield, Mass.	July 9 to Sept. 2.	14
Plainfield, N. J.	July 1 to Aug. 29.	26
Providence, R. I.	July 2 to Sept. 2.	12
St. Louis, Mo.	June 11 to Sept. 2.	40
St. Paul, Minn.	July 23 to Aug. 26.	10
Somerville, Mass.	July 23 to Sept. 2.	16
Springfield, Mass.	July 30 to Aug. 5.	8
Stamford, Conn.	July 30 to Aug. 26.	43
Syracuse, N. Y.	June 18 to Sept. 2.	35
Toledo, Ohio.	July 9 to Sept. 2.	33
Trenton, N. J.	July 9 to Sept. 5.	22
Washington, D. C.	July 1 to Sept. 5.	40
West Hoboken, N. J.	July 1 to Sept. 5.	40